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JON BRUNING ATTORNEY GENERAL

For Immediate Release: March 31, 2004

Contact: Holley Bolen (402) 471-3888

Attorney General Bruning to Kick Off Nebraska Internet Safety Month

(LINCOLN, NE) Attorney General Jon Bruning announced today that April is Nebraska Internet Safety Month. The month-long statewide campaign sponsored by the Office of the Attorney General and the Educational Service Units will educate Nebraska teens and their parents about online predators.

"One in five children who use Internet chat rooms has been approached on-line by a predator. And 70% of aggressive on-line solicitations occur within the home," Bruning stated. "The bottom line is that we need to do more to ensure that our kids are safe, and we need to give kids and parents the means to protect themselves."

"Pound is honored to have Attorney General Bruning kick off Internet Safety Month in our school. The Internet has become a valuable educational tool, however, it is also a tool that can be used in harmful ways. We appreciate this opportunity to teach our students how to safely use the Internet," commented Kelly Els-Schrad, Associate Principal at Pound Middle School.

To kick off the campaign, a press conference will be held today, March 31st, at 10 a.m. in the Pound Middle School auditorium in Lincoln. Attorney General Bruning will be joined by representatives from the State Patrol Internet Crimes Against Children Unit, the Educational Service Units and i-SAFE, a national non-profit foundation dedicated to educating children and communities on Internet safety. Following the announcement, Bruning will talk with Pound students about Internet safety. Members of the press are invited to stay for the presentation. Bruning will also speak to students at Logan-Fontenelle Middle School in Bellevue and LaVista Jr. High School in LaVista.

A meeting of community leaders, organized by the group i-SAFE, will be held in the middle school immediately follow the Attorney General's presentation.

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(Audio clips are available on the website at http://www.ago.state.ne.us/content/sound bits.html)

March 31, 2004 Schedule of Events

10:00 a.m. Press Conference at Pound Middle School Auditorium (4740 S. 45th Street)
Attending: Attorney General Jon Bruning; Bob Hays, Technology Consultant of ESU #11; Sgt. Scott Christensen of the State Patrol Internet Crimes Against Children Unit; David Leingang, Development Manager of i-SAFE organization
10:30 a.m. Attorney General to speak to Pound Middle School students
i-SAFE hosts community leaders meeting at Pound Middle School
Attorney General to speak to LaVista Jr. High School students in LaVista (7900 Edgewood Blvd.)
2:30 p.m. Attorney General to speak to Logan-Fontenelle Middle School students in Bellevue (701 Kayleen Drive South)



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JON BRUNING ATTORNEY GENERAL

For Immediate Release: March 29, 2004

Contact: Holley Bolen, Attorney General's Office (402) 471-3888 Nance Harris, Nebraska Truckers Association (402) 476-8504

Nebraska Truckers Join AMBER Alert Network

(LINCOLN, NE) Attorney General Jon Bruning and the Nebraska Trucking Association announced today that AMBER Alerts can now be sent to Nebraska truck drivers trained as Highway Watch volunteers.

"We're thrilled that the Highway Watch volunteers are willing to help with the AMBER program," said Bruning. "Because they're on the road, truck drivers are in a unique position to see things that other people don't. They can be instrumental in helping us capture abductors and recover our children."

Highway Watch, a national program, trains professional truck drivers to report potential crimes as well as public safety and security situations to law enforcement. Since Nebraska entered the Highway Watch program in June 2003, the Nebraska State Patrol has trained over 100 truck drivers as Highway Watch participants. These volunteers asked Nebraska Attorney General Jon Bruning how they could help when an AMBER Alert was issued.

"We're eager to put our Highway Watch program into a higher gear," said Nebraska Trucking Association President Mike Hybl. "We're proud of the Nebraska-based truck drivers who took the initiative to be included in the AMBER Alert system, and we're looking forward to adding more trained observers to this important child protection effort."

The Highway Watch program uses a national call center that accepts calls based on secure driver identification numbers. Drivers making a report are patched directly to local law enforcement based on location and the situation being reported. The call center can also send pre-recorded messages to the truck drivers' cell phones.

The Nebraska State Patrol will e-mail AMBER Alerts to the Highway Watch National Call Center. The call center will immediately relay the message to Highway Watch drivers via a recorded message. This will add over 100 trained observers to help search the highway system for a missing child and his or her abductor.

The number of trained Nebraska observers could grow to thousands in the near future. On March 22, 2004, American Trucking Associations announced a \$19.3 million agreement with the Transportation Security Administration (TSA) to expand the Highway Watch program beyond truck drivers.

TSA is asking the trucking industry to coordinate the training of nearly 400,000 highway professionals nationwide including: school bus drivers, public transit drivers, travel plaza workers, and highway workers. American Trucking Associations will arrange training for Nebraska's transportation workforce through its affiliate, the Nebraska Trucking Association.

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(audio clips are available on our website at http://www.ago.state.ne.us/content/sound_bits.html)



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JON BRUNING ATTORNEY GENERAL

For Immediate Release: March 24, 2004

Contact: Holley Bolen Phone: (402) 471-3888

Attorney General Bruning Gives Internet Safety Presentation to Ogallala Middle School Students

OGALLALA, NE – Attorney General Jon Bruning will present Ogallala Middle School students with a program on Internet safety today. The program outlines ways that predators track young victims and provides information on how to stay safe from online predators.

"It's important to be aware of what you're disclosing when you're online. What may seem to be an insignificant piece of information can be used to find out a lot about a person," said Bruning.

Bruning will caution young people against giving out personal information such as names, addresses, or phone numbers online.

"Unfortunately, there are a lot of dangerous criminals out there that use the Internet as a tool to find their next victim," said Bruning. "You may think you're talking to a peer when in reality he or she may be a convicted, middle-aged sex offender."

The Internet safety presentation will take place at 9:00 a.m. at the Ogallala Middle School.

For more information on how to protect yourself against Internet predators visit the Attorney General's website at www.ago.state.ne.us.



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JON BRUNING ATTORNEY GENERAL

For Immediate Release: March 24, 2004

Contact: Holley Bolen Phone: (402) 471-3888

Attorney General Bruning Gives Internet Safety Presentation to Sidney Middle School Students

SIDNEY, NE – Attorney General Jon Bruning will present Sidney Middle School students with a program on Internet safety today. The program outlines ways that predators track young victims and provides information on how to stay safe from online predators.

"It's important to be aware of what you're disclosing when you're online. What may seem to be an insignificant piece of information can be used to find out a lot about a person," said Bruning.

Bruning will caution young people against giving out personal information such as names, addresses, or phone numbers online.

"Unfortunately, there are a lot of dangerous criminals out there that use the Internet as a tool to find their next victim," said Bruning. "You may think you're talking to a peer when in reality he or she may be a convicted, middle-aged sex offender."

The Internet safety presentation will take place at 2:35 p.m. at the Sidney High School Auditorium.

For more information on how to protect yourself against Internet predators visit the Attorney General's website at www.ago.state.ne.us.



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JON BRUNING ATTORNEY GENERAL

For Immediate Release: March 22, 2004

Contact: Holley Bolen Phone: (402) 471-3888

Attorney General Bruning Files Petition For Disciplinary Action Against Fremont Cancer Center Head Nurse Prochaska Prochaska Agrees to License Revocation

(LINCOLN, NE) Attorney General Jon Bruning announced today that on March 15th the State filed a petition for disciplinary action against Linda Prochaska, a registered nurse from the Fremont Cancer Center. Following the filing, Prochaska signed a settlement agreeing to the State's stipulation revoking her license to practice nursing on March 18th.

"This has been a devastating tragedy for the victims and their families," said Bruning. "It was our top priority to revoke the licenses of those who put the health of Nebraskans at risk."

"These are serious allegations," said Dick Nelson, Director of the Department of Regulation and Licensure. "Poor infection control practices put patients' well-being at risk and are not acceptable in a health care practitioner."

The petition stemmed from an investigation into the Fremont Cancer Center and former director, Dr. Tahir Javed. In a settlement reached in October, Javed admitted to using unsanitary practices. At least 99 of the center's patients were infected with hepatitis C.

The petition alleges that Prochaska, the center's head nurse, engaged in unprofessional conduct by failing to conform to the standards of acceptable medical practice while working at the Fremont Cancer Center. The petition claims that Prochaska reused syringes when accessing saline from a saline bag that was used for multiple patients, and failed to wear gloves when providing oncology care. Prochaska did not contest those allegations in the settlement agreement.

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(audio clips are available on our website at www.ago.state.ne.us)



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JON BRUNING ATTORNEY GENERAL

For Immediate Release: March 19, 2004

Contact: Renee Martinez-Junck

Phone: (402) 471-2683

Attorney General Bruning's Office Teams up with Chicano Awareness Center to Protect Latino Consumers

Lincoln, NE - Attorney General Jon Bruning announced today that Latino Outreach Coordinator Renee Martinez-Junck is now available for appointments at the Chicano Awareness Center in Omaha. Martinez-Junck will be working in conjunction with Rebecca Valdez, Chicano Awareness Center Executive Director, and Lissette Krayenhagen, who serves as Social Services Counselor for the Center.

"I am especially concerned about the well-being of our ethnic communities who are often targeted because of language barriers," said Bruning. "I am thrilled to be working with the Chicano Awareness Center to help safeguard our Latino communities from fraud."

The Attorney General's efforts have already paid off. Recently, the Office successfully mediated a complaint from a Latino consumer. The consumer was given an incorrect translation of an immigration application. Due to the faulty translation, she filled out the application incorrectly, and it was denied. After the woman sought assistance from the Department of Justice, the company repaid the \$50.00 charged to her.

Martinez-Junck will be accepting appointments every Wednesday from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at the Chicano Awareness Center located at 4821 South 24th Street, Omaha.

For more information, call the Chicano Awareness Center at 402.733.2720.



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JON BRUNING ATTORNEY GENERAL

[For Immediate Release: March 19, 2004

Contact: Renee Martinez-Junck Phone: (402) 471-2683]

El Procurador General, Bruning, Une Fuerzas Con El Chicano Awareness Center Para Proteger Los Consumidores Latinos

Lincoln, NE - El Procurador General Jon Bruning anunció hoy que la Coordinadora Latina, Renee Martinez-Junck, es ahora disponible para citas en el Chicano Awareness Center en Omaha. Martinez-Junck estará trabajando en conjunción con Rebecca Valdez, Directora del Chicano Awareness Center, y Lissette Krayenhagen, Consejera de Programas de Bienestar en el centro.

"Soy especialmente interesado en el bienestar de nuestras comunidades étnicas que son a menudo victimas del fraude," diga Bruning. "Me emociono para estar trabajando con el Chicano Awareness Center para ayudar a proteger nuestras comunidades latinos."

Los esfuerzos del Procurador General han sidos pagados. Recientemente, la oficina reconcilió una queja de un consumidor latino. El consumidor era dado una traducción incorrecta de una aplicación de inmigración. Debido a la traducción imperfecta, llenó la aplicación incorrectamente, y se negaba. Después de la mujer buscó ayuda del Departamento de Justicia, la compañía reembolsó el \$50.00 cargó a ella.

Martinez-Junck estará aceptando citas todos los miércoles de 10:00 a.m. a 1:00 p.m. en el Chicano Awareness Center localizó a 4821 South 24th Street, Omaha.

Para mas información, llame el Chicano Awareness Center en 402.733.2720.



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JON BRUNING ATTORNEY GENERAL

For Immediate Release: March 11, 2004

Contact: Holley Bolen Phone: (402) 471-3888

Attorney General's Office Files Charges in Dakota County Case

(South Sioux City, NE) Attorney General Jon Bruning announced today that the State has charged Jennifer Hancock with 3 counts of felony motor vehicle homicide and 1 count of possession of methamphetamine. The charges stem from a 2001 Dakota County case involving three fatalities.

"This is a difficult day," said Attorney General Bruning. "The lives of two families were forever changed by this terrible tragedy."

Bruning added, "The presence of methamphetamine in the defendant's system at the time of the accident can only be described as a reckless disregard for life. There is no question in my mind that charges are warranted."

"I appreciate the Attorney General's assistance in this case," said Dakota County Attorney Ed Matney. "His office serves as an important resource in those cases where an outside look is required."

The two-vehicle collision occurred on Highway 35 in Dakota County on April 8, 2001. Jeffrey Beacom, Talia Hancock, and Damien Wendte all died of injuries sustained in the impact. The cars involved were a Ford Thunderbird driven by Andrew Beacom and a Chevrolet Astro driven by Jennifer Hancock.

The Attorney General's Office was asked by Matney to review the case and determine whether charges should be filed. The four felony charges the State filed have sentences ranging from 0-5 years and possible fines up to \$10,000.

Audio clips are available at the Attorney General's website at http://www.ago.state.ne.us/content/sound bits.html



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JON BRUNING ATTORNEY GENERAL

For Immediate Release: March 11, 2004

Contact: Holley Bolen Phone: (402) 471-3888

Attorney General Bruning Gives Internet Safety Presentation to South Sioux City Middle School Students

SOUTH SIOUX CITY – Attorney General Jon Bruning will present South Sioux Middle School students with a program on Internet safety today. The program outlines ways that predators track young victims and provides information on how to stay safe from online predators.

"It's important to be aware of what you're disclosing when you're online. What may seem to be an insignificant piece of information can be used to find out a lot about a person," said Bruning.

Bruning will caution young people against giving out personal information such as names, addresses, or phone numbers online. "Unfortunately, there are a lot of dangerous criminals out there that use the Internet as a tool to find their next victim," said Bruning. "You may think you're talking to a peer when in reality he or she may be a convicted middle-aged sex offender."

The Internet safety presentation will take place at 1:30 p.m. at the South Sioux City Middle School.

For more information on how to protect yourself against Internet predators visit the Attorney General's website at www.ago.state.ne.us.



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JON BRUNING ATTORNEY GENERAL

Attorney General Jon Bruning Guest Column: March 5, 2004 Contact: Christina VanVliet (402) 471-2594

Throughout the year, many of us are contacted by promotional companies claiming we have won a vacation. What they don't tell us is that there are often hidden charges or limitations that come with this "free" vacation. That's how vacation scams work.

Most often, a consumer receives a notification which offers a free vacation. The company will then either contact the consumer or request a reply in order to set up the vacation. Upon contact, the consumer learns that their 'free' vacation suddenly has numerous criteria that must be met in order to receive the vacation at the free or discounted price.

To avoid becoming a victim of this type of scam, take the following steps when making travel arrangements:

- Get the details in writing. Get the details of the trip in writing and get a copy of the cancellation policy. You should also confirm your reservations.
- · Avoid companies you've never heard of. If possible, deal with a company that you know. If you are contacted by other companies, do your research and find out if they are reputable.
- Be cautious of travel memberships. Be wary of any company that tries to sell you travel memberships that exceed five years. This may include timeshares or campground clubs.

Free or low-cost vacation offers that sound too good to be true usually are. For additional information, contact the Consumer Protection Division of the Attorney General's Office at (800) 727-6432 or visit us online at www.ago.state.ne.us.



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JON BRUNING ATTORNEY GENERAL

For Immediate Release: March 3, 2004

Contact: Holley Bolen

(402) 471-3888

Attorney General Bruning Testifies in Senate Discusses Defense of Marriage Amendment

Washington, DC - Nebraska Attorney General Jon Bruning testified before the U.S. Senate Subcommittee on the Constitution today regarding President Bush's proposed constitutional amendment defining marriage. Bruning spoke to the legal status of Nebraska's case on the Defense of Marriage Act and the legal implications of recent court rulings regarding DOMA statutes.

"My office is charged with defending the constitution as amended by Nebraska voters in 2000," said Attorney General Bruning. "It's possible, if not likely, that Nebraska's constitutional amendment will be struck down by the federal courts. The same could happen in other states and with the federal DOMA statute."

Bruning was invited to offer a legal analysis of Nebraska's litigation by U.S. Senator John Cornyn, R-TX.



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JON BRUNING ATTORNEY GENERAL

For Immediate Release: March 3, 2004

Contact: Christina VanVliet Phone: (402) 471-2594

State Files for Rehearing in Low Level Radioactive Waste Lawsuit

(Lincoln, NE) - Attorney General Jon Bruning announced that the State of Nebraska filed a petition today requesting a rehearing en banc in the Low Level Radioactive Waste Lawsuit. The petition asks that all of the judges of the United States Eighth Circuit Court of Appeals reconsider the decision issued last month affirming the judgment against the State.

"The ramifications of this lawsuit are enormous and we must pursue all avenues to find a resolution," said Attorney General Jon Bruning.

Nebraska's petition asks the Court to look at three issues including the argument that Nebraska did not consent to a lawsuit for money damages. The State additionally argues that the Compact does not allow the Commission to recover money damages for itself and that Nebraska was entitled to a jury trial.



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JON BRUNING ATTORNEY GENERAL

For Immediate Release: March xx, 2004

Contact: Holley Bolen Phone: (402) 471-3888

Attorney General Bruning Announces Nebraska Will Sign National Amber Alert Agreement

(LINCOLN, NE) Attorney General Jon Bruning announced today that the State will sign the Interstate AMBER Alert Plan for the Protection of Children Memorandum of Understanding. The memorandum is the product of a partnership between member states, in cooperation with the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children and the U.S. Department of Justice National AMBER Alert Coordinator.

Under the agreement, if a child is abducted in one member state, it may notify other member states and provide all available information surrounding the abduction of the child. The receiving state will then immediately activate its AMBER Alert Plan. All member states will be available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week to receive this information.

"I'm grateful for President Bush's commitment to the AMBER program," said Bruning. "The federal leadership on this issue has created a unified network to share child abduction information."

"AMBER" is an acronym for America's Missing Broadcast Emergency Response, and serves as a protocol for alerting the public of a child abduction to solicit information useful in the investigation and recovery of abducted children. For more information on AMBER alerts, visit their webpage at www.amberalertsonline.com.

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